

NOTES ON SOME SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIZARDS.

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In the course of the last week of December, 1881, two rare and remarkable lizards were handed to me by Mr. Bilney, Kangarilla, who caught them in the Tertiary scrub adjoining that township.

Turning to Gray's "Lizards of Australia," 1867, it is easy to see that one is a very near relation to *Hinulia Gerrardi*, from Rockhampton, Queensland; but neither the coloring nor the proportion of the various parts of the figure agree with the specimen. The transverse bands are much more dissimilar, some from the one side not meeting those from the other at all in the middle of the back, while there are short but very distinct rudiments of bars between the principal ones, which are scarcely indicated in Gray's figure by adventitious light markings.

Then, again, the figure of *H. Gerrardi* shows thirteen light transverse bars from the base of the tail to its tip, while the Kangarilla specimen presents only five or six distinct ones and one or two faint ones. Another difference is seen in the much shorter tail in proportion to the body.

When caught from under the rocks it was very lively, and exerted itself much for a day or two to escape, even snapping at the hand, but it soon became quiet, taking raw and cooked meat freely from between one's fingers. The example is unique.

Another species of the genus *Hinulia Greyii* in Gray's work (plate 10), which is recorded by him from Swan River, has lately been noticed by me living, seemingly in pairs, under rocks, close to the river Onkaparinga. My specimens appear to be somewhat larger than the one figured by Gray, but in other respects there seems to be no difference.

The third species is one of the snake-like lizards, which are considered and treated by most people as snakes. It is a *Pygopus*, the genus being easily distinguished by the large plates of the head and the flapper-like rudiments of the hind legs at the base of the tail, and was taken from a small hole in sand by the same person who captured, in the same locality, the large *Hinulia*.

The specimen differs very much in detail from *Pygopus*

squamiceps, as figured by Gray (plate 8, fig. 3). The first frontal plate, which is whole in the figure, is divided in two in my specimen. The body of the latter is much wider than the head, increasing gradually in width till within a short distance from the base of the tail. The tail is somewhat abruptly joined to the body, and is almost as long as it. The body of *Pygopus squamiceps* is scarcely half as long as that of my example, but is thicker in proportion. The only markings are some minute black dots along the sides of the body, while my specimen presents five conspicuous black marks on the posterior part of the head. The largest one is on the middle line of the body, oblong, with an anterior stalk-like projection; on each side, but farther forward, is a smaller but similar spot, the "stalk" pointing to the upper angle of the eye; in a line with them are two others, but bar-like, one on each side, commencing opposite the hindmost extremity of the central spot and extending diagonally backwards and upwards. The length of the central spot and these bars is about one-fourth of an inch; that of anterior ones one-eighth of an inch. I cannot discern any dark spots along the sides of the body, but they are distinctly visible from the base to near the tip of the tail at irregular distances, and bordered with white on the lower side. The last inch or so of the tail is covered with very much smaller scales, which are of a yellowish-grey tint, and are marked with short longitudinal lines. The tip of the tail is very thin for about three-sixteenths of an inch, and not hard. The general color is a clear ashy grey above and light grey, tinged with pink, below.

Should this specimen prove to be new, the name *Pygopus longicaudatus* might be suggested as appropriate.

Several examples of *Pygopus squamiceps* have been brought to me that were captured under rocks on the hillsides about Ardrossan, Yorke's Peninsula.

